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FROM

Lionel Horton-Smith

HYMN BY LORD MACAULAY

An Effort of His Early Childhood

(Hitherto Unpublished)

An Extract from
The London Scottish Regimental Gazette
Vol. II, No. 6, pp. 92 sq.
June 1897

By

LIONEL HORTON-SMITH

Of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-law; M.A., and Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge

With a Preface
Extracted from the Sewanee Review
Sewanee, Tennessee, U.S.A.
October 1899

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Extract from the Sewanee Review
University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, U. S. A.
Vol. VII, No. 4, Whole No. 28, pp. 492 sq.
October 1899

AN EARLY HYMN OF LORD MACAULAY

We owe to the kindness of Mr. Lionel Horton-Smith, whom the readers of this REVIEW know in connection with his classical studies,* a reprint of an article, published by him in the *London Scottish Regimental Gazette*, of which he is one of the Editors, for June, 1897, containing a facsimile of an early hymn of Lord Macaulay's. We should have been able to present our readers with this facsimile, but for the fact that the precocious poet's handwriting sprawls far beyond the limits of one of our pages. We are constrained, however, to give the hymn in print, for we feel sure that such a literary curiosity will prove of interest to every one, and especially to those readers of Sir George Trevelyan's delightful "Life and Letters," who felt that they would willingly have had a few stanzas from hymns pronounced by Mrs. Hannah More to be "quite extraordinary for such a baby." Quite extraordinary were the lines from the poem on Olaus Magnus, King of Norway, quoted by Trevelyan; but they seem to be somewhat later than the hymn shortly to be given, and after all it is just as well to strengthen the published evidence for as remarkable a case of precocity as is on

* *Sewanee Review*, Vols. V, No. 4 (Oct. 1897); VI, No. 1 (Jan. 1898), and No. 3 (July 1898); VII, No. 2 (April 1899), and No. 4 (Oct. 1899).

record. Milton's early paraphrases of the Psalms strike us with surprise, but what are we to say of Macaulay's hymn? It is not great poetry; perhaps Matthew Arnold could have detected in it the germs of the pinchbeck verse he so inveighed against; but at least it helps to prove that Thomas Babington Macaulay is entitled to rank with, if not above, Abraham Cowley as a youthful prodigy.

A Reprint from
The London Scottish Regimental Gazette
Vol. II, No. 6, pp. 92 sq.
June 1897

HYMN BY LORD MACAULAY

AN EFFORT OF HIS EARLY CHILDHOOD

(Hitherto Unpublished)

It is not proposed to give here either a literary or a biographical notice of Lord Macaulay. A few remarks only are offered by way of preface to the "photo-zincographical" facsimile given below.

Thomas Babington Macaulay, son of Zachary Macaulay, and grandson of the Rev. John Macaulay of Cardross, was born on October 25th, 1800. "From the time that he was three years old," writes his nephew Sir G. O. Trevelyan, "he read incessantly." Nor did he confine himself to reading. Even in his earliest boyhood he was for ever committing to paper the lucubrations of his youthful brain.

There exists an unpublished letter from the aforesaid Zachary Macaulay to Dr. Kenneth Macaulay,* dated 10th September, 1808 (now in the possession of Miss Rose Adelaide Macaulay, of 6 Oakland's Grove, Shepherd's Bush, W., granddaughter of the said Dr. Kenneth Macaulay), wherein the father describes the various compositions of his "dear Tom." Towards the end of this letter we read:—"He has composed I know not how many hymns. I send you one as a specimen in his own handwriting, which he wrote about six months

* An exact genealogical note of the Macaulay family will be found *infra*, p. 10.

ago" (when not yet 7½ years old!) "on one Sunday morning, while we were at breakfast."

[The unpublished letter here mentioned is, curiously enough, in many places absolutely identical with the letter which, also dated September 1808, is ascribed by Sir G. O. Trevelyan (*Life and Letters of Lord Macaulay*, Vol. I. ch. i., pp. 30 *f.*) to Lord Macaulay's mother.]

"Quite extraordinary for such a baby" is the judgment passed by Mrs. Hannah More on these early hymns of Lord Macaulay (see Trevelyan, *op. cit.*, Vol. i., ch. i., p. 32). Her judgment is enough for us. We have simply to endorse it.

The actual specimen sent as aforesaid to Dr. Kenneth Macaulay is now in the hands of the above-mentioned Miss R. A. Macaulay, and it is through the courtesy and kindness of the latter that we are enabled to enrich the pages of our Gazette with the following exact facsimile:—

A Hymn

Almighty God of all below,
Thou canst protect from every foe.
The Heavens are made by thy great Hands.
One word of the Earth commands.

2

Some men make Gods of red and blue,
And rob their Sovereign of his due:
The good shall go to Heaven. The fell,
Blasts of thy wrath can bear to hell.

3

Thy wrath is like a burning fire;
Thy goodness all the good admire;
Thy Word restores the dawning day;
At Thy command bright lightnings play.

4

The Birds that chirp their morning songs,
That Breath of Praise to thee belongs.
These by thy mercy always fed.
Teach us to beg our daily bread.

5

Ye Mortals loud resound your King;
And while that poeverful God you sing,
Oh! be your Hearts and Tongues the same
While singing thy Almighty name!

For the purposes of identification, it may be well to add a genealogical note shewing the exact relationship subsisting between the above-mentioned members of the Macaulay family:—

The Rev. John Macaulay aforesaid married twice. By his second wife (Margaret Campbell) he had several children, one being Zachary, the father of Lord Macaulay. By his first wife (Isobel M^{c}Neill) he had only one child, namely Hector.*

The said Hector Macaulay married (on April 9th, 1776, at St. Botolph's, Aldersgate, London) Ann Hake, daughter of Samuel Hake of Honiton in Devonshire.

The youngest of the three children of the said Hector and Ann Macaulay was Kenneth (the "Dr. Kenneth Macaulay" aforesaid), born December 19th, 1780.

The said Kenneth Macaulay in 1802 went to Madras, where he married Adelaide Hall.

The eldest of the seven children of the said Kenneth and Adelaide Macaulay was Zachary, born in 1814.

This last mentioned Zachary Macaulay married Mary Morton, by whom he had six children, the fifth being the Miss Rose Adelaide Macaulay aforesaid.

* The said Hector Macaulay was my gt.-gt.-gt.-uncle, being a brother-in-law of Alexander Graham (my gt.-gt.-grandfather), for whom see the *Navy League Journal*, Vol. iv., No. 7 (July, 1899), p. 112.

LIONEL HORTON-SMITH
("I" Company)

53 Queen's Gardens, Lancaster Gate, London, W.
June 1897

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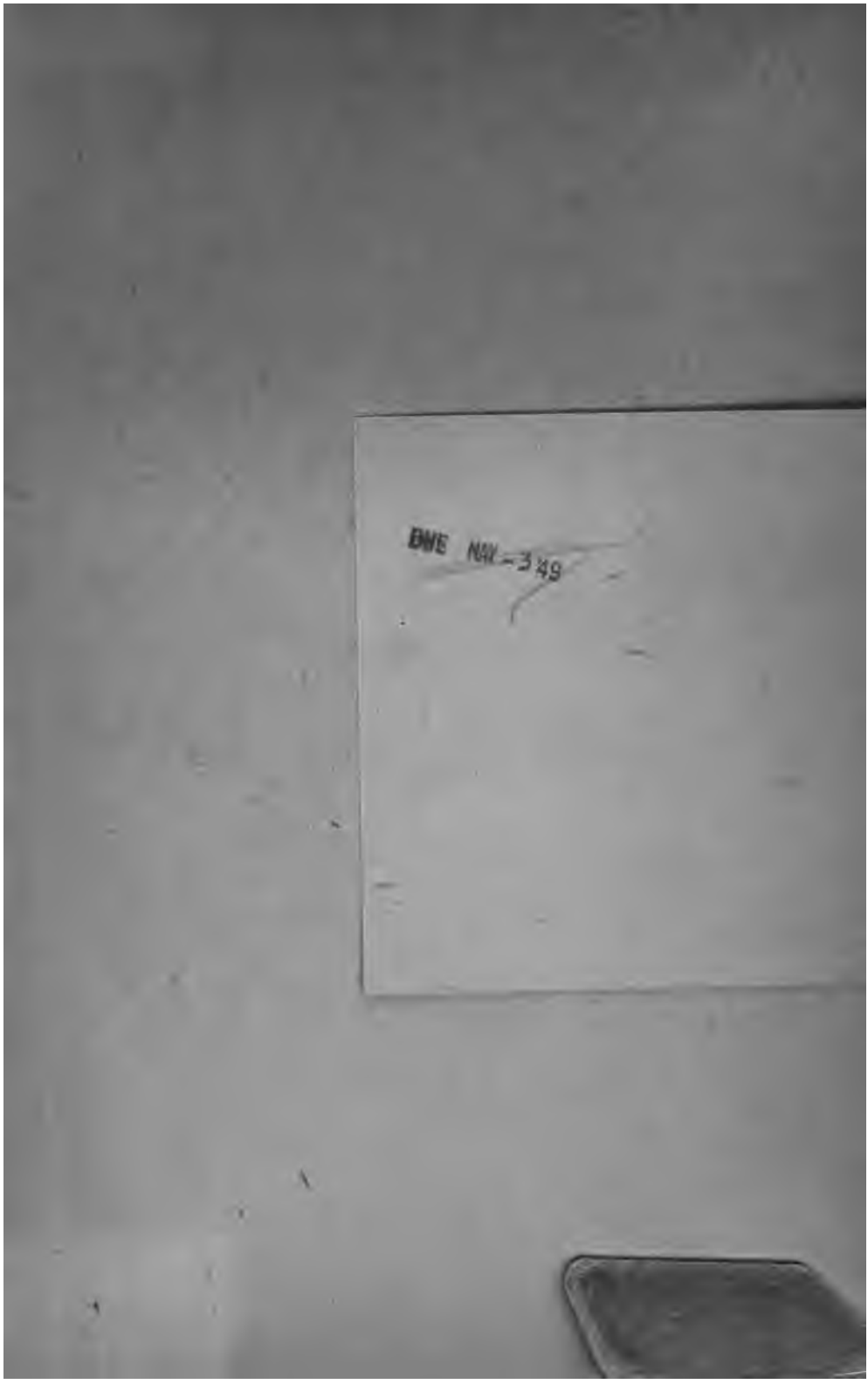
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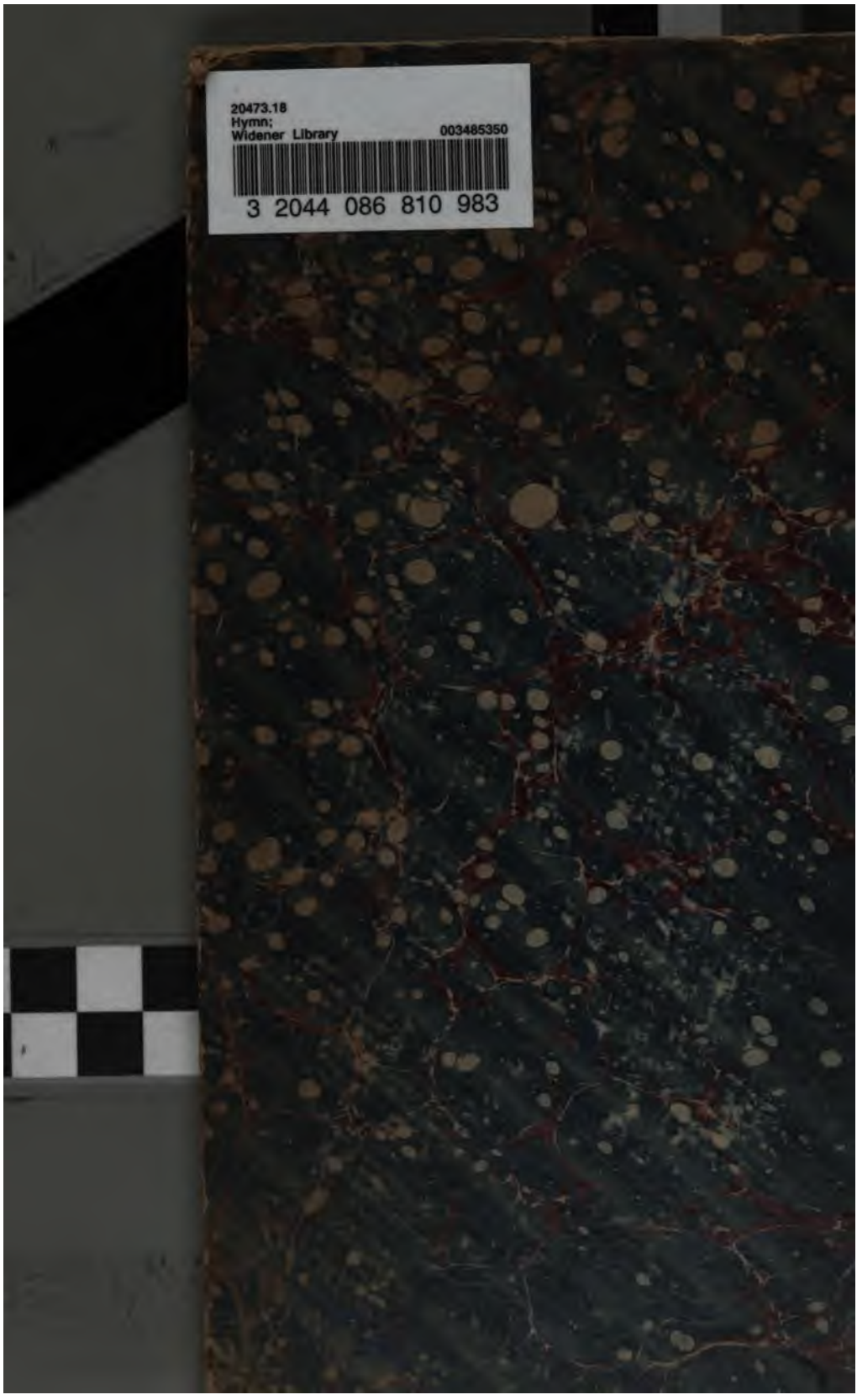
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